

Georgia Department of Human Resources

WOMEN AND AIDS IN GEORGIA

- Women accounted for one in four Georgians diagnosed with AIDS in 2001. Of the 25,245 cases of AIDS reported in Georgia through December 31, 2001, 4,390 were women.
- Eighty-four percent of women with AIDS in Georgia are African-American.
- Forty-five percent of the adult and adolescent women with AIDS in Georgia became infected through sex with an infected partner.
- Twenty-six percent of adult and adolescent Georgia women with AIDS were infected by sharing needles used to inject drugs, and four percent were infected by transfusions with contaminated blood or blood products. (The risk factors in the remaining cases have not yet been determined.)
- If an HIV-infected woman receives appropriate therapy during pregnancy and delivery, and if the infant receives it after birth, the chances of the infant becoming HIV infected are drastically reduced.
- Most women do not know whether their sex partner is HIV-infected. People with HIV may not have noticeable symptoms for many years, and people with AIDS are not always visibly sick.
- STDs, including gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis, increase the risk of transmitting or acquiring HIV from an infected partner through unprotected sex.

Did you know that:

- Nearly four of five (79%) women reported (cumulative through June 2002) with AIDS in Georgia were 15 to 44 years of age at the time of AIDS diagnosis.
- AIDS was the leading cause of death among African-American women in Georgia ages 20-44 in 2001.
- Forty-three percent of the women reported with AIDS (through June 2002) in Georgia were living outside the 20-county Atlanta metropolitan area at the time of AIDS diagnosis.